

# POPULAR ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2020

# LEXINGTON, KENTUCKY 2020



# **ABOUT THIS REPORT**

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The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government is proud to present this Popular Annual Financial Report (PAFR). This is a short form report that provides summarized information about the Government's financial activities. It is intended to give readers an overview of the Government and its finances, and does not provide all the detailed information required by accounting standards. It does not include information on all of the Government's Funds or Component Units. Detailed financial information, including the audited financial statement, is available in the Government's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report, commonly called the CAFR. The CAFR provides full disclosure of all material events in the notes to the financial statements, as well as required supplementary information and historical statistical information.

The CAFR and PAFR are available online at:

https://www.lexingtonky.gov/departments/accounting



Government Finance Officers Association

Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting

Presented to

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government, Kentucky

> For its Annual Financial Report for the Fiscal Year Ended

> > June 30, 2019

Christopher P. Morrill

Executive Director/CEO

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada (GFOA) has given an Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Financial Reporting to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. The Award for Outstanding Achievement in Popular Annual Financial Reporting is a prestigious national award recognizing the City's conformance with the highest standards for preparation of state and local government popular reports. LFUCG first published a PAFR in 2020, and this is the first year LFUCG has received the award.

The City also received the GFOA Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting Award for the FY2019 CAFR for the twenty-seventh consecutive year.

# LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Linda Gorton, the longest continuouslyserving member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, is serving her first term as Lexington Mayor. Mayor Gorton was elected on November 6, 2018, winning 63% of the vote.

A native of Ohio, Mayor Gorton has lived in Lexington most of her adult life. In addition to her 16 years on the Council, including 4 years as Vice Mayor, Mayor Gorton has been a dedicated volunteer in our community.

Mayor Gorton is currently working to keep Lexington citizens safe in a global pandemic. Fallout from the pandemic has slowed down economic activity and triggered belt tightening in City Hall. Mayor Gorton's conservative management of the budget has kept the City on a sustainable path. She is also working with business leaders from across our City to restart our economy.

Mayor Gorton is continuing her emphasis on development of a comprehensive action plan to help those who suffer from opioid addiction, a problem that is detrimental to our labor force, diverts funding from much-needed initiatives, and has stolen the future from many talented Lexingtonians.

Another ongoing priority is economic development...jobs, jobs, jobs. Mayor Gorton is focused on making Lexington a technological hub, including high tech agriculture.

Mayor Gorton and her husband, Charlie, a retired Major General in the Army, have two children and five grandchildren. She is a registered nurse and graduate of the University of Kentucky.

# MAYOR LINDA GORTON

Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government



Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Linda Gorton Mayor

November 23, 2020

Dear Citizen,

The Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2020, reflects fiscal discipline and strong financial management in the face of significant economic fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The impact of the pandemic on our economy and on the city budget was sudden and deep. Beginning in early March, when Lexington reported its first case of COVID-19, virtually all economic activity slowed in our city, throughout our state, and across our nation.

In March 2020, over 18,200 Lexington citizens filed first-time claims for unemployment. A year earlier, in March 2019, Fayette's initial unemployment claims numbered 408. Naturally, there was a significant drop in fourth quarter revenues.

Before the pandemic struck, we were following a tight budget designed to maintain and protect the basic services our citizens value. We funded a continuation budget for FY 20 ... a continuation of excellent government services through a fiscally responsible budget that reset our spending. We tightened our belt, and limited borrowing to the lowest level since 2013. The pandemic required that we cut expenses to tighten that belt even more.

The success of our financial management is reflected in a bond rating that has remained unchanged despite the change in our economy. Bond rating agencies measured the health of our city and affirmed our excellent rating in spite of economic upheaval. We have recently refinanced several bonds, saving \$500,000 this year in debt costs, and a total savings over several years of \$4.7 million. Those savings would have not been possible without a low bond rating.

Ainda Aortan
Linda Goston
Merror

FOLLOW MAYOR GORTON:
www.facebook.com/MayorGorton www.twitter.com/MayorGorton

200 East Main Street

Lexington, KY 40507 • (859) 425-2255 HORSE CAPITAL OF THE WORLD www.lexingtonky.gov



# THE URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL

## **URBAN COUNTY COUNCIL**

The Urban County Council consists of one Councilmember from each of the twelve districts and three At-Large Councilmembers, for a total of fifteen members. The District Councilmembers are elected for two-year terms and may serve up to six consecutive terms. At-Large Councilmembers are elected for four-year terms and may serve up to three consecutive terms. The at-large member who receives the most votes in the general election becomes the Vice Mayor. In the Mayor's absence, the Vice Mayor is the presiding officer.

All Council Work Sessions/Meetings are held in the Council Chamber on the second floor of the Government Center and are open to the public. There is a time for public comment at both of these meetings. Work Sessions are held every Tuesday at 3:00 pm when the Council is in session and Council Meetings are held on two Thursdays of each month at 6:00 pm. Alternative Council procedures may be in place due to COVID-19. Please visit www.lexingtonky.gov for up-to-date information.

The photos below represent the Urban County Council as of time of publishing. For a list of Council Members seated during the financial reporting period (July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020) please reference the CAFR.



Steve Kay Vice Mayor



James Brown District 1



Josh McCurn District 2



Hannah LeGris District 3



Susan Lamb District 4



Chuck Ellinger II At-Large



Liz Sheehan District 5



**David Kloiber** District 6



**Preston Worley** District 7



Fred Brown District 8



Richard Moloney At-Large



Whitney Baxter District 9



Amanda Mays Bledsoe Jennifer Reynolds District 10



District 11



Kathy Plomin District 12

# **ABOUT LEXINGTON**

# **HISTORY**

Lexington was founded in 1775, seventeen years before Kentucky became a state. William McConnell and a group of frontier explorers were camping at a natural spring when they received word that the first battle of the American Revolution had just fought been in Lexington, Massachusetts. In honor of that event. they named their site "Lexington." Lexington grew quickly, and by the 1820s it had become one of the largest and wealthiest cities west of the Allegheny Mountains. Because of its rich culture, Lexington garnered the nickname, "Athens of the West." Lexington has continued to grow and prosper in the two centuries since. In 1974 Lexington and Fayette County became one of the first cities in America to merge the city and county governments. This highly would be beneficial development and preserving the natural beauty of the area. Now, Lexington has a population of over 323,152, and its metropolitan statistical area is home to over 500,000. Lexingtonians enjoy low unemployment, low cost of living, comparatively low crime rates, and a rare combination of urban vibrancy and beautiful horse farms. Lexington, now "The Horse Capital of the World," is one of the most livable cities in the country.



Thoroughbred Park



**Downtown Lexington** 

# **LEXINGTON IN NUMBERS**

328,690

**Population** 



60th

Largest City by
Population
In the United States

**28th** 

Largest City by Land
Area
In the United States

Source: U.S. Census Bureau

# RECENT AWARDS

#### 2020 Best Cities for College Grads, #2

"Lexington, Kentucky has the seventh-best fun score and the 17th-best affordability score in the study. Within the category of fun, Lexington placed seventh overall for average Yelp restaurant rating, at 4.08 out of a total of five stars. Within the affordability index, Lexington placed 10th out of 115 for low cost of living. The cost of living in Lexington is \$19,526, potentially allowing for more opportunities to save or invest."

**SmartAsset** 



Photo Credit: commencement.uky.edu



# The 10 Most Diversified Metro Economies in the US, #9

"Known as the "Horse Capital of the World," Lexington is filled with beautiful horse farms (roughly 450 of them in the region!). Bourbon distilleries, scenic "timbered tunnels," and bluegrass music help define Lexington. The University of Kentucky is a major employer in this metropolitan area. But in addition to education, other top industries include healthcare, distribution and manufacturing. Amazon has a fulfillment center in the area and other major employers include laser printer maker Lexmark International and Lockheed Martin."

Livability.com

Cities with the Best Work-Life Balance, #3

**SmartAsset** 

Most Affordable City for an Early Retirement, #5

SmartAsset

Friendliest City in the US, #9 Conde Nast Traveler

Best Cities for Young Professionals, #10 SmartAsset

Best Weekend Getaways in the South, #30 Country Living

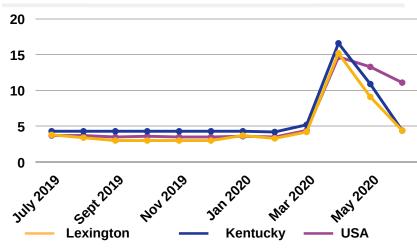




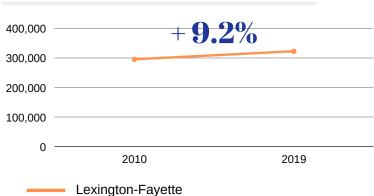
# **ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**

The 2020 Coronavirus outbreak has had a substantial impact on the US, and by the been felt Lexington has Nevertheless, throughout economy. Lexington there are encouraging signs of economic stabilization. Lexington's population has steadily increased since the last census, and the area continues to attract and retain a highly educated workforce. The population of Lexington is one of the most educated of similar sized cities in the country. Median Household income is higher than the state of Kentucky as a whole and has continued to grow.

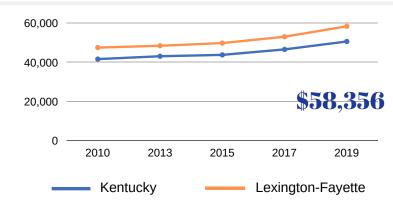
# Comparative Unemployment Rates



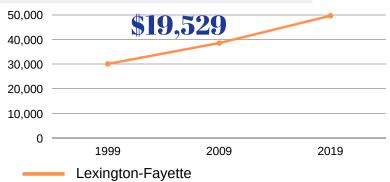
#### **Population Growth**



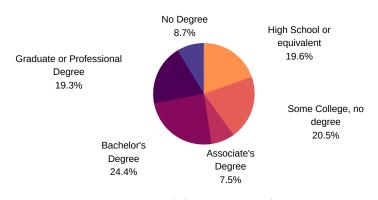
#### **Median Household Income (dollars)**



#### **Per Capita Personal Income**



#### **Educational Attainment**



\*Population 25 years and over, Year 2019

## **ECONOMIC OVERVIEW**





# **EDUCATED WORKFORCE**



Anchored by the state's flagship university, the University of Kentucky, the Bluegrass boasts 10 colleges and universities within 40 miles of Lexington. In addition, Lexington has four other professional and technical colleges. In total, nearly 70,000 students are enrolled in institutions of higher learning in the Bluegrass, awarding more than 18,000 degrees and credentials annually. Among cities over 300,000 in population, the U.S. Census Bureau ranks Lexington as the 12th most highly educated in the nation (based on the 43.7% of the population 25 years or older holding at least a bachelor's degree). Even more impressive, 19.3% of the population has a graduate or professional degree, ranking Lexington the 11th most highly educated city.

#### INNOVATION LEADER



According to StatsAmerica's Innovation Index 2.0, the Lexington-Fayette Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA) is the state leader in innovation and entrepreneurship. StatsAmerica's Innovation Index 2.0 quantifies a county, MSA, or Economic Development District's capacity for innovation and the amount of innovation already produced. The Lexington-Fayette MSA has the highest overall index score in the state with 111.1, compared to Louisville/Jefferson County KY-IN MSA's 103.8 and Cincinnati OH-KY-IN MSA's 110.5.

# **CENTRAL LOCATION**



Lexington is far from the middle of nowhere, in fact, it is in the middle of everything! Lexington is located 600 miles from over two-thirds of the US population and is ideally situated at the crossroads of two major interstates, I-75 and I-64, giving companies here direct access to both north-south and eastwest routes.

# itish Columbia Ontario ashington \_Nebraska Colorado Lexington Oklahom

Source: Commerce Lexington, Why Lexington?

# LOW BUSINESS COSTS



Kentucky has the lowest cost of electricity in the industrial sector among states east of the Mississippi River. Kentucky's industrial electricity rates are seventh lowest nationally and almost 18% lower than the national average.

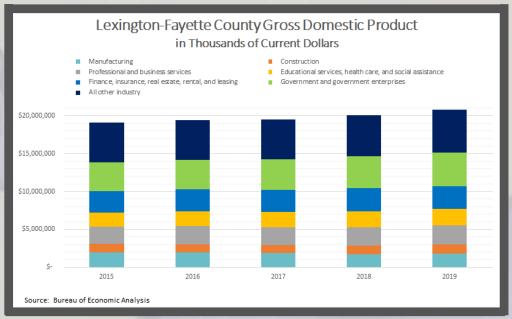
Water service is available through local providers in each of the Bluegrass counties. Kentucky American Water, located in Lexington, is the largest, with a capacity of 90 million gallons per day.

Location	Composite Index	Grocery Items	Housing	Utilities	Transpor- tation	Health Care	Misc. Goods
Lexington	92.4	89.7	82.8	95.7	96.5	78.9	100.6
Brooklyn	180.4	128.1	335.3	121.5	113.5	107.0	123.0
Los Angeles	145.9	116.0	228.1	106.3	134.5	110.7	111.8
Chicago	120.0	101.6	154.0	92.4	125.6	100.0	109.3
Philadelphia	110.5	118.4	115.2	105.7	115.9	101.7	104.6
Dallas	107.7	100.0	117.5	106.9	96.6	105.4	106.6
Seattle	156.7	128.8	225.0	108.1	137.6	128.6	136.0
San Diego	141.3	115.8	213.9	123.3	128.9	107.2	107.1

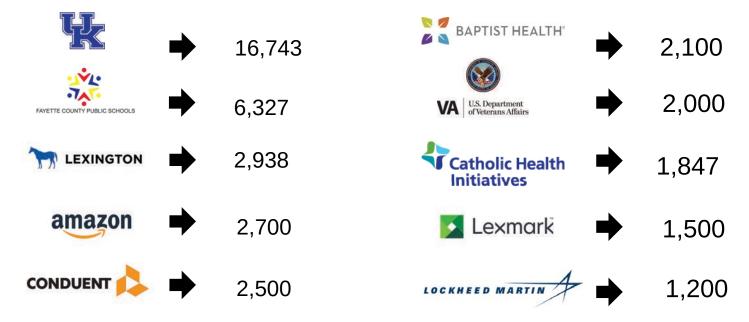


#### **FAYETTE COUNTY - BUSINESSES**

Lexington has a diverse economy, with major employers in manufacturing, finance, healthcare, government, and other industries. The diversity of the economy is one of its strengths with more than 28,500 companies doing business. Lexington-Fayette County is a \$20+ billion economy marked by consistent, sustainable growth. Between 2015 and 2019, the Lexington-Fayette County economy (GDP) grew 9% overall with an average annual growth of 2%.



#### **Top 10 Employers in Fayette County**



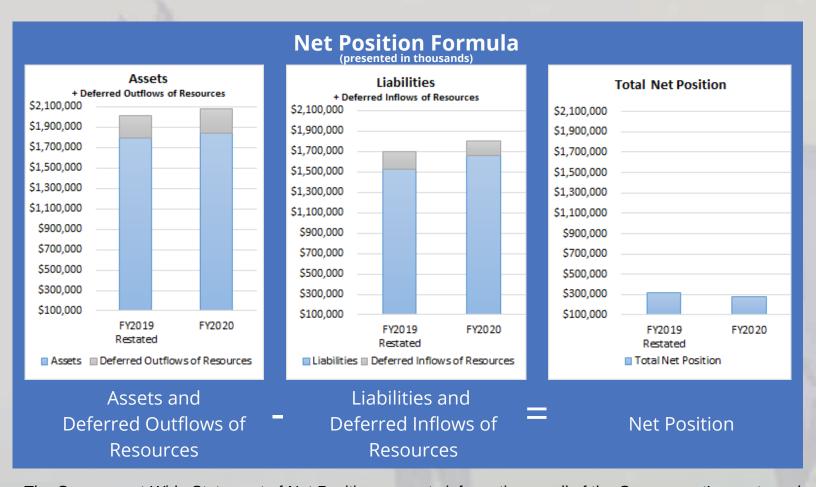


## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

**NET POSITION** 

#### **Inside the Government-Wide Statement of Net Position**

- Net Position: Net position is the sum of all the assets and deferred outflows of resources less the liabilities and deferred inflows of resources.
- **Assets**: The listed assets represent anything of value (equipment, real estate, cash) that the Government owns.
- Liabilities: The liabilities represent all debts and future obligations that the Government has to pay.
- **Deferred Outflows and Inflows of Resources:** The outflow (consumption) or inflow (acquisition) of resources in the current period applicable to future reporting periods.

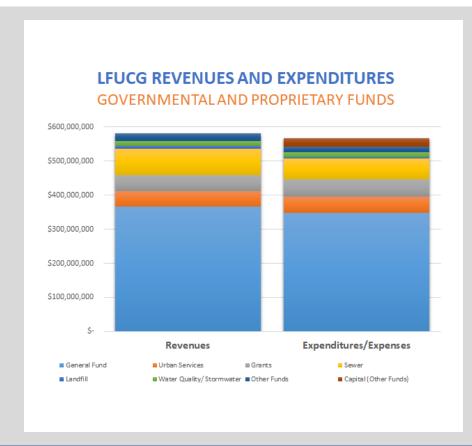


The Government-Wide Statement of Net Position presents information on all of the Government's assets and liabilities, deferred outflows, and deferred inflows with the difference between the above reported as Net Position. Net Position is the difference between what the government owns and what the government owes. Positive net position balances indicate a measure of financial stability. The Government maintained a positive net position in 2020, which decreased from \$313.4 million in 2019 to \$276.1 million in 2020. The financial activities also include Component Units which are legally separate organizations for which the Government is financially accountable. Financial information for these component units is reported separately from the financial information presented for the primary government.



## FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

#### **FUND SUMMARY**



#### **Revenues and Expenditures**

The Government primarily operates from Governmental Funds and Proprietary Funds. The City budgets, records, and monitors revenues and expenditures by fund.

Governmental Funds account for the basic services of Government like police, fire, and public works. The General Fund is a type of Governmental Fund.

Proprietary Funds are used to report on business-like operations that generate revenues to pay for expenses. These include services like the sanitary sewer, landfill, water quality/stormwater and others.

#### **Impacts of COVID-19**

Prior to the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the economy, the LFUCG budget was trending positively. As a result of the Pandemic, LFUCG encumbered positive balances in operating accounts and extended its existing hiring freeze to most positions. These changes generated expense savings to offset significant revenue declines during the last three months of FY2020, especially those fees paid by businesses and persons employed in Lexington-Fayette County.

LFUCG recognized \$20 million in CARES Act Relief funds in FY2020 to offset Pandemic-related expenses. These funds were used to provide public safety measures for the community, and to create relief funding programs for those most affected by the Pandemic. In addition to community-wide public safety initiatives, \$2.5 million in funding was made available to small businesses through a grant program and just under \$1 million was made available to partner non-profit agencies to provide rent and utility assistance to those experiencing a decrease in income due to COVID-19.

The long-range financial challenges of COVID-19 to LFUCG are expected to continue into FY2021 and FY2022. LFUCG's cost saving measures will remain in place to offset continuing revenue shortages.



# GENERAL FUND GOVERNMENTAL REVENUES WHERE THE MONEY COMES FROM

\$369,909,091

General Fund Governmental Revenues 2019

\$367,593,935

General Fund Governmental
Revenues 2020

-0.63%

Growth

The City's General Fund experienced slight negative growth in 2020, primarily due to the effects of COVID-19 experienced in the final quarter of the year. During this time, LFUCG experienced decreased collections in Occupational Fees as well as Charges for Service, like parks-related fees and various building permits.

The majority of the General Fund revenues that fund the Government's activities come from License Fees & Permits as reported in the chart. The major categories within License Fees and Permits are Occupational Fees (Employee Withholding Fee and Net Profit Fee on business net profits), Insurance Premium Tax, and Franchise Fees. Employee Withholding Fee is an assessment of 2.25% on the total wages received by individuals in the Lexington-Fayette County area, and Net Profits Fee is an assessment of 2.25% on net profits of businesses operating in the Lexington-Fayette County area. Insurance Premium Tax is an assessment of 5% on insurance premiums sold by insurance agencies. Franchise Fees are an assessment on utility bills. The rate of the assessment is based on the type of utility. The rate for gas and electric billing is 4% and the rate on water billing is 3%.

Other major revenue categories for the Government are Property Taxes and Charges for Services. Charges for Services include charges collected by the Detention Center, EMS charges, fees for building permits, and fees associated with Parks and Recreation programs.





# GENERAL FUND GOVERNMENTAL EXPENDITURES WHERE THE MONEY GOES

\$366,387,641

General Fund Governmental Expenditures 2019 \$348,227,011

General Fund Governmental Expenditures 2020

-5%

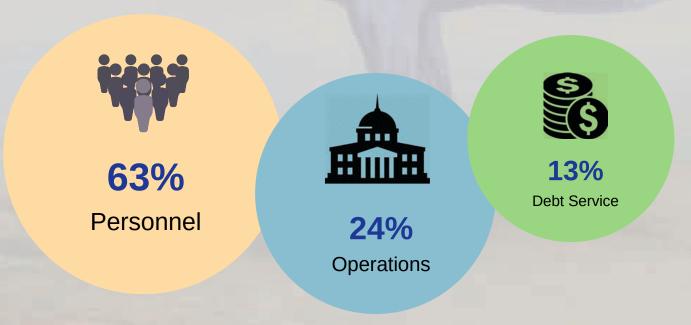
**Variation** 

Primarily Related to Coronavirus Relief Reimbursements

## **General Fund Governmental Expenditures by Department**



# **General Fund Governmental Expenditures by Source**



**Total Primary Government** 



S&P Global

Governmental

Moody's

# Summary of Outstanding Debt - For Years As Stated (in thousands)

**Business-Type Activities** 

	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019
TOTAL	\$388,498	\$402,421	\$257,827	\$209,262	\$646,325	\$611,683
(AA)	Aa2		\$646,325	2.6	3%	8.4 yrs
	Total Primary			terest Rate	Average Project Life	

Government 2019

Both Moody's and S&P rate our bonds in a category referred to as "High Grade", which means the Government has strong financial management and is trusted to repay the city's commitments

The Government issues Municipal Bonds annually to fund various Capital Projects. Most of these municipal bonds are "tax-exempt," which means that someone who buys a municipal bond doesn't have to pay federal taxes on the interest they earn, while the government gets to borrow money at a cheaper interest rate. The government repays the amount of the bonds plus interest over a period of time, which is usually between ten and twenty years. Bonds have been previously issued for projects such as fire stations, infrastructure improvements, the Senior Center, and the Lexington Convention Center Renovation. Without bonding, large capital investments in the community might not be possible.













# Capital assets are the largest asset of the local government









**Capital assets** are tangible and intangible assets acquired for use in operations that will benefit the local government for more than a single fiscal period. Typical examples of capital assets include land, land improvements, construction-in-progress, infrastructure/improvements, buildings, furniture, motor vehicles, and software.

Summary of Capital Assets - For Years As Stated (in thousands)

	Governmental		Business-Typ	e Activities	Total Primary Government		
	2020	2019	2020	2019	2020	2019	
TOTAL	\$911,308	\$937,563	\$519,444	\$488,621	\$1,430,752	\$1,426,184	

# CAPITAL INVENTORY & PROJECTS



A **Capital Project** is a project that helps maintain, improve or replace a City **asset**. Some examples of Capital Projects that the Government funded in 2020 include paving, purchase of new Police and Fire vehicles, purchase of cardiac monitors to be used by the Fire personnel, purchase of updated voting machines, and a safety project to address the envelope of the LFUCG Government Center. The work to complete capital projects often stretches over fiscal years. Project highlights for FY2020 are included below.

#### STORMWATER IMPROVEMENTS











The Division of Water Quality undertakes stormwater projects to mitigate flooding in areas across the City. During FY2020, projects were completed in the areas of Arrowhead Drive, Dartmouth Drive at Wilson Downing Road, Elizabeth Street at Forest Park, Riviera Road, Shilito Park, and the Wolf Run Watershed area.

#### **WATER QUALITY**











The Government is required to reduce sanitary sewer overflows as part of a Consent Decree agreement with the Department of Justice, EPA, and the Commonwealth of Kentucky. The Consent Decree requires Lexington to address structural, operational, and procedural issues within its storm and sanitary sewer systems. The Government continues to make progress on its Consent Decree requirements. The project is scheduled for completion in 2026.



# **CONTACT LIST**

# **GOVERNMENT SERVICES**

**Aging & Disability Services** 

859-270-6072

**Building Inspection** 859-258-3770

**Central Purchasing** 

859-258-3320

Citizens' Advocate Office

859-280-8271

Code Enforcement

859-425-2255

**Community Corrections** 

859-425-2700

Community &

**Resident Services** 

859-300-5300

E911

859-258-3784

**Environmental Quality** 

& Public Works

859-425-2558

**Family Services** 

859-288-4040

Fire & Emergency Services 859-231-5600

**Health Department** 

859-252-2371

Parks & Recreation

859-288-2900

**Planning** 

859-258-3160

**Police** 

859-258-3600

Revenue

859-280-8300

**Social Services** 859-258-3804

**Youth Services** 

859-246-4370

LexCall 311

LexCall 311 can assist you with services to include garbage collection, potholes, trash and debris, street signs and other LFUCG services.

They can also connect you to any LFUCG employee or division.

# MAYOR AND COUNCIL

#### Mayor Linda Gorton

mayor@lexingtonky.gov 859-258-3100

**Steve Kay** Vice Mayor

skay@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8250

**James Brown** District 1

jbrown2@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8238

Josh McCurn District 2

jmccurn@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8239

**Hannah LeGris** District 3

hlegris@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8240

Susan Lamb District 4

susanl@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8241

Chuck Ellinger II At-Large

cellinger@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8237

Liz Sheehan **District 5** 

Isheehan@lexingtonky.gov dkloiber@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8242

**David Kloiber District 6** 

859-280-8243

**Preston Worley District 7** 

pworley@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8244

Fred Brown **District 8** 

fbrown@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8245

**Richard Moloney** At-Large

rmoloney@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8251

**Whitney Baxter** District 9

wbaxter@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8246

Amanda Mays Bledsoe Jennifer Reynolds District 10

abledsoe@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8247

District 11 jreynolds@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8248

**Kathy Plomin** District 12

kplomin@lexingtonky.gov 859-280-8265

### Requests for Information

The information contained in the PAFR is a general overview of the Government's finances.

Questions or requests for additional information may be addressed to

Sr. Administrative Officer
Ashley Simpson at
asimpson@lexingtonky.gov or to:

#### **LFUCG**

200 East Main Street Lexington, KY 40507

The PAFR and CAFR for Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government can be found online at

www.lexingtonky.gov/departments/accounting

